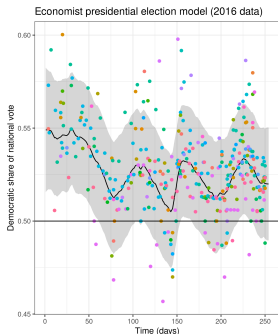


Approximate data deletion and replication with the Bayesian influence function

Ryan Giordano (rgiordano@berkeley.edu, UC Berkeley), Tamara Broderick (MIT)

2024 ISBA World Meeting

Economist 2016 Election Model [Gelman and Heidemanns, 2020]



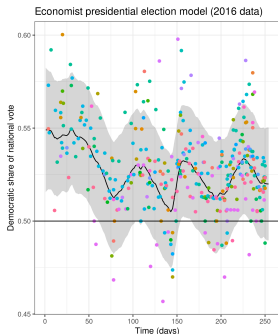
A time series model to predict the 2016 US presidential election outcome from polling data.

- $X = x_1, \dots, x_N =$ Polling data ($N = 361$).
- $\theta =$ Lots of random effects (day, pollster, etc.)
- $f(\theta) =$ Democratic % of vote on election day

We want to know $\mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|X)}[f(\theta)]$.

Typically, we compute Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) draws from the posterior $p(\theta|X)$.

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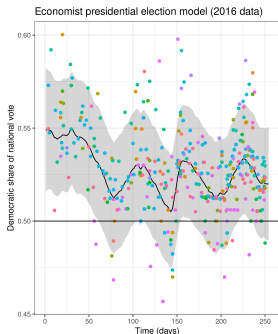
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If we had selected a different random sample, how much would our estimate have changed?

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- The model is (surely) misspecified
- The posterior expectation marginalizes over many nuisance parameters
- We are interested re-sampling for *this* election, not a hypothetical future election

Idea: Re-fit with bootstrap samples of data [Huggins and Miller, 2023]

Problem: Each MCMC run takes about 10 hours (Stan, six cores).

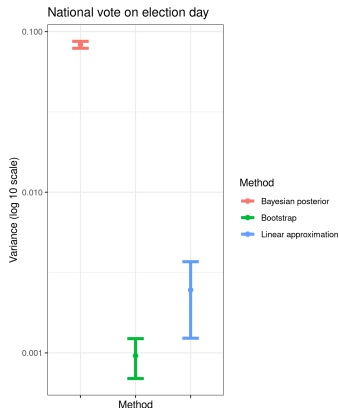
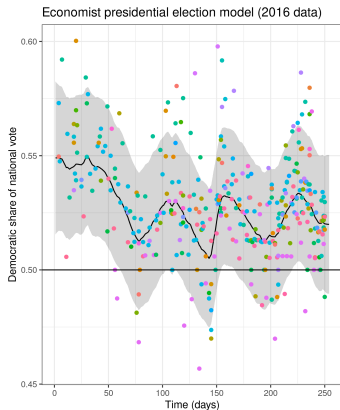
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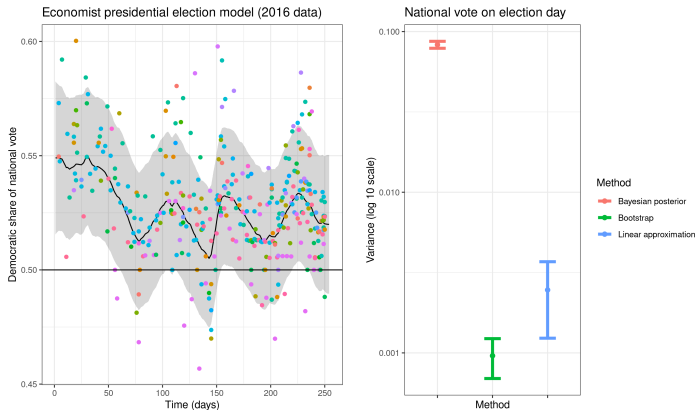


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Compute time for 100 bootstraps: 51 days

Compute time for the linear approximation: Seconds
(But note the approximation has some error)

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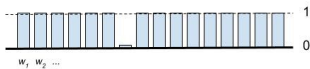
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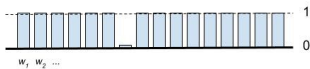
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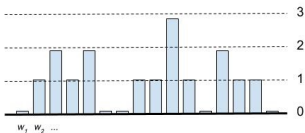
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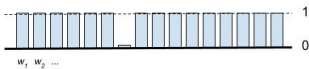
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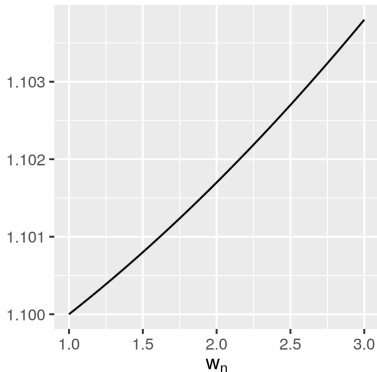
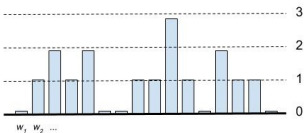
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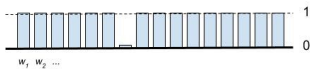
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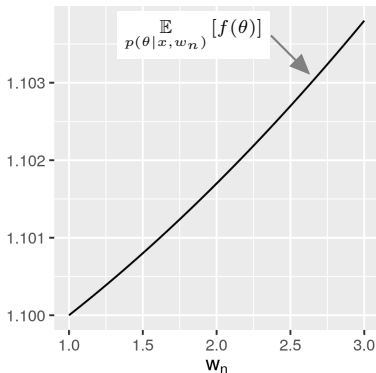
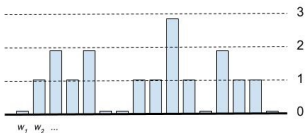
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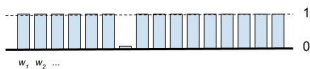
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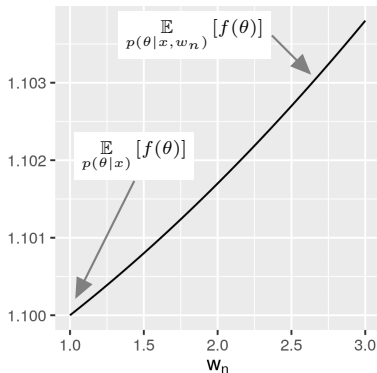
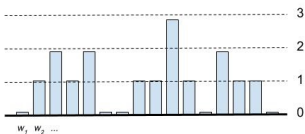
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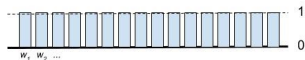


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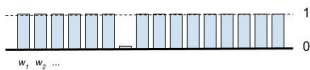
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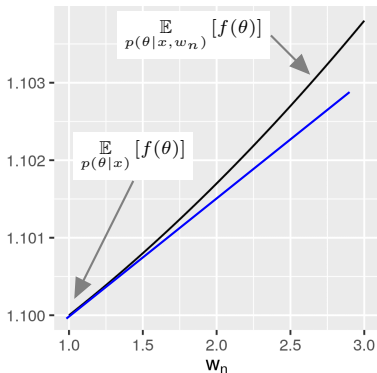
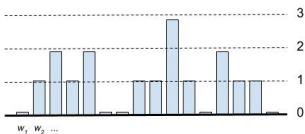
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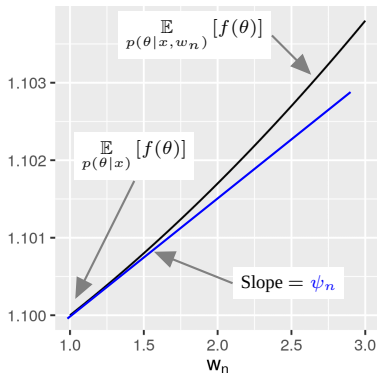
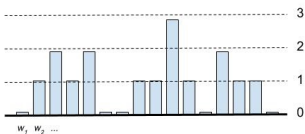
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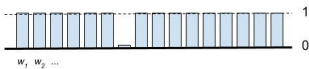
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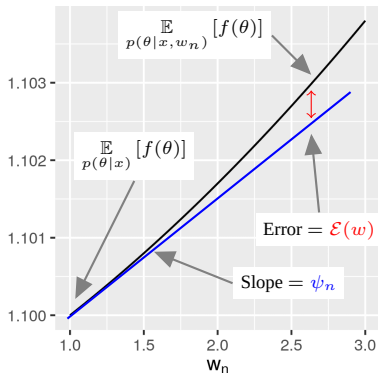
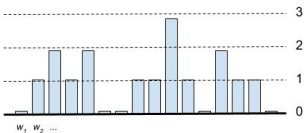
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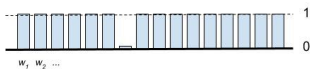
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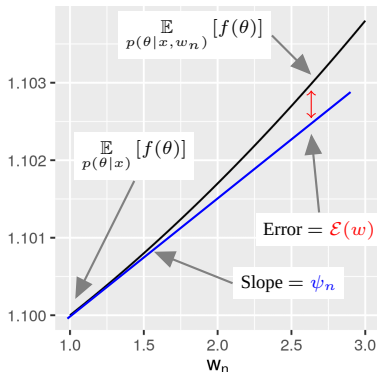
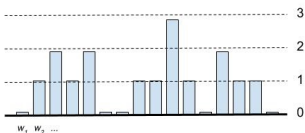
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Other examples: Cross validation, conformal inference, outlier identification, etc.

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Furthermore, by the mean value theorem, for some \tilde{w} ,

$$\mathcal{E}(w) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{n'=1}^N \mathcal{E}_{nn'}(w) (w_n - 1)(w_{n'} - 1) \quad \text{where}$$
$$\mathcal{E}_{nn'}(w) := \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|X,\tilde{w})} [\bar{f}(\theta) \bar{\ell}_n(\theta) \bar{\ell}_{n'}(\theta)]}_{\substack{\text{Cannot compute directly!} \\ \text{(we don't know the intermediate value theorem's } \tilde{w} \text{).} \\ \text{But we can analyze it.}}}$$

Here, an overbar denotes “posterior–mean zero.” For example, $\bar{f}(\theta) := f(\theta) - \mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|X)} [f(\theta)]$.

How good is the linear approximation (IJ covariance) as an approximation of the limiting variance of $\sqrt{N} \mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|X)} [f(\theta)]$?

Theoretical results

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Theorem 4 of Giordano and Broderick [2023] (paraphrase & conjecture):

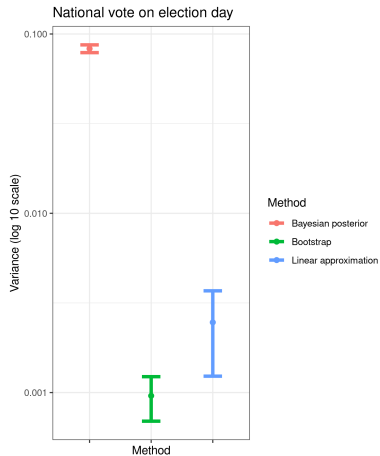
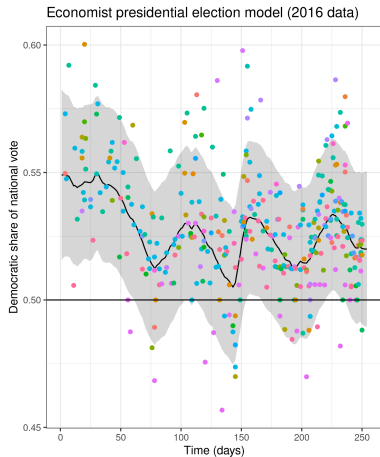
In a flexible class of high–dimensional exponential family models,
even when $p(f(\theta)|X)$ obeys a BVM marginally (!),

- $\sqrt{N}\mathcal{E}(w)$ does not converge to zero (so the IJ covariance is inconsistent), but...
- $\sqrt{N}\mathcal{E}(w) = \tilde{O}_p(1)$, and proportional to the nuisance parameters’ posterior covariance

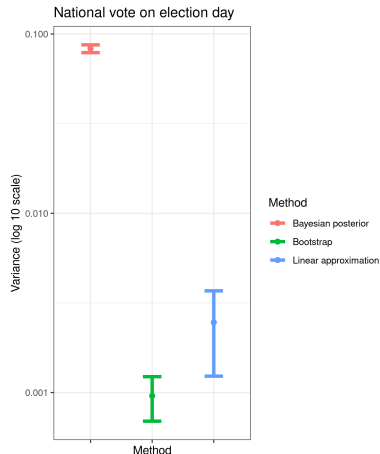
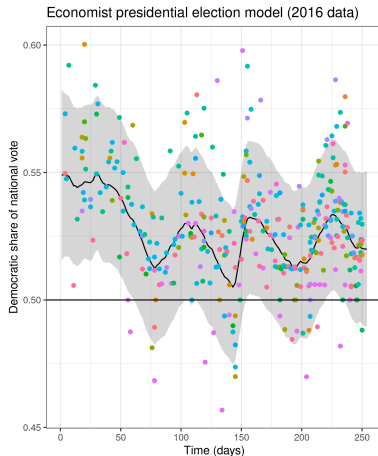
- Proofs use the von Mises expansion to accomodate high–dimensional θ [von Mises, 1947].

⇒ **Proofs (and experiments) strongly suggest the bootstrap is inconsistent as well.**

Observations and consequences



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Preprint: Giordano and Broderick [2023] (arXiv:2305.06466)

- Detailed proofs
- Simple analytical examples
- Simulated and real-world experiments



- A. Gelman and M. Heidemanns. The Economist: Forecasting the US elections., 2020. URL <https://projects.economist.com/us-2020-forecast/president>. Data and model accessed Oct., 2020.
- R. Giordano and T. Broderick. The Bayesian infinitesimal jackknife for variance. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.06466*, 2023.
- J. Huggins and J. Miller. Reproducible model selection using bagged posteriors. *Bayesian Analysis*, 18(1):79–104, 2023.
- R. von Mises. On the asymptotic distribution of differentiable statistical functions. *The Annals of Mathematical Statistics*, 18(3):309–348, 1947.

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Influential subsets: Approximate maximum influence perturbation (AMIP).

Let $W_{(-K)}$ denote weights leaving out K points.

$$\max_{w \in W_{(-K)}} \left(\mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|x, w)} [f(\theta)] - \mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|x)} [f(\theta)] \right) \approx - \sum_{n=1}^K \psi_{(n)}.$$

Example: A negative binomial model

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As $N \rightarrow \infty$, $p(\gamma|X)$ concentrates at rate $1/\sqrt{N}$ (Bernstein–von Mises).

$$\Rightarrow N \left(\mathbb{E}_{p(\gamma|X, w_n)} [\gamma] - \mathbb{E}_{p(\gamma|X)} [\gamma] \right) = \psi_n(w_n - 1) + O_p(N^{-1}).$$

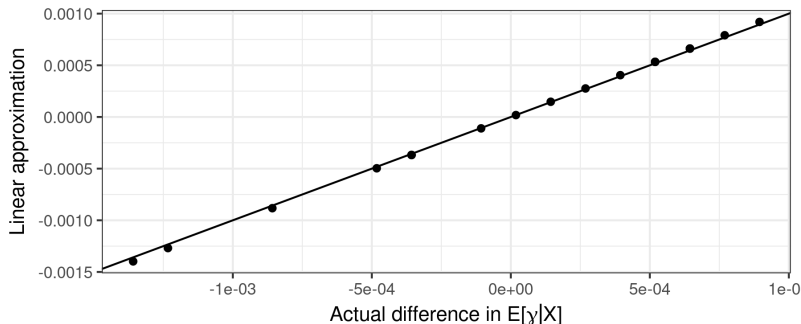
Example: A negative binomial model

Consider $p(X|\gamma) = \prod_{n=1}^N \text{NegativeBinomial}(x_n|\gamma)$. Here, $\theta = \gamma$ is a scalar.

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Negative Binomial model
leaving out single datapoints with $N = 800$



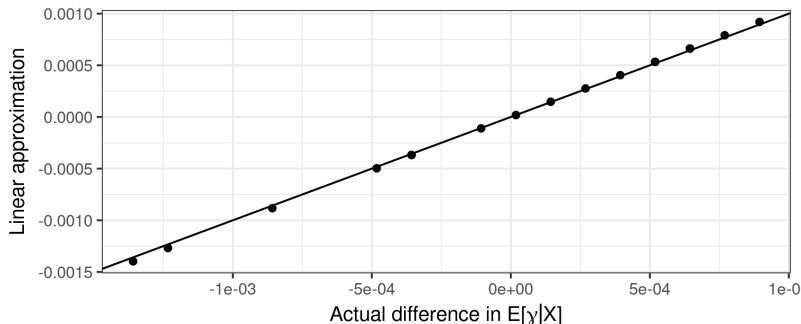
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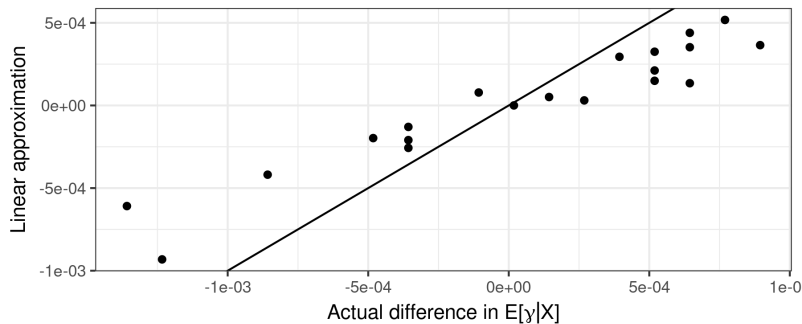
Negative Binomial model
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Problem: Most computationally hard Bayesian problems don't concentrate.

Example: **Poisson model with random effects (REs) λ and fixed effect γ .**

Poisson random effect model
leaving out single datapoints with $N = 800$



A contradiction?

Negative binomial observations.

Asymptotically linear in w .

Poisson observations with random effects.

Asymptotically non-linear in w .

A contradiction?

Negative binomial observations.

Asymptotically linear in w .

Poisson observations with random effects.

Asymptotically non-linear in w .

With a constant regressor, Gamma REs, and one RE per observation,
these are the same model, with the same $p(\gamma|X)$.

Is $\mathbb{E}_{p(\gamma|X,w)} [\gamma]$ linear in the data weights or not?

A contradiction?

Negative binomial observations.

Asymptotically linear in w .

$$\log p(X|\gamma, w^m) = \sum_{n=1}^N w_n^m \log p(x_n|\gamma)$$

Poisson observations with random effects.

Asymptotically non-linear in w .

$$\log p(X|\gamma, \lambda, w^c) = \sum_{n=1}^N w_n^c \log p(x_n|\lambda, \gamma)$$

With a constant regressor, Gamma REs, and one RE per observation, these are the same model, with the same $p(\gamma|X)$.

Is $\mathbb{E}_{p(\gamma|X, w)} [\gamma]$ **linear in the data weights** or not?

Trick question! We weight a log likelihood contribution, not a datapoint.

The two weightings are not equivalent in general.

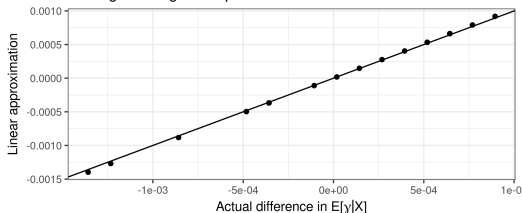
Experimental results

Our results were actually computed on **identical datasets** with $G = N$ and $g_n = n$.

Uses $\log p(x_n | \gamma)$:

$$\psi_n = \mathbb{E}_{p(\gamma|X)} [\bar{\gamma} \bar{\ell}_n(\gamma)]$$

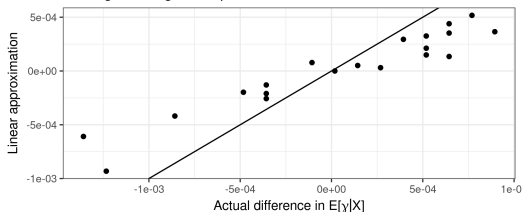
Negative Binomial model
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Uses $\log p(x_n | \gamma, \lambda)$:

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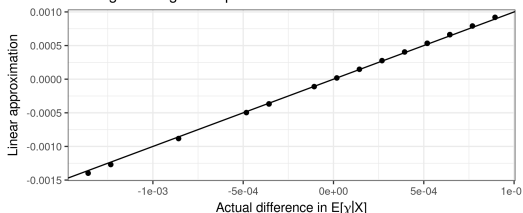
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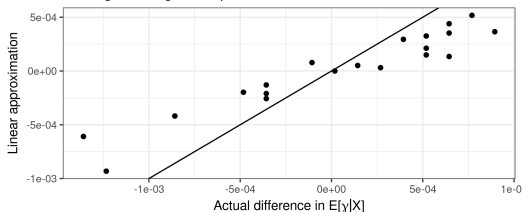
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Negative Binomial model
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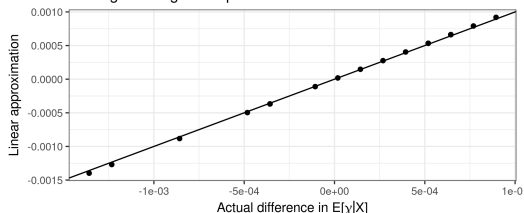
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Computable from

$$\gamma, \lambda \sim p(\gamma, \lambda | X).$$

May still be useful when $p(\lambda | X)$ is *somewhat* concentrated.

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Poisson random effect model
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